




Indiana State  
Department of Health  
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Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr.  
Governor

Judith A. Monroe, M.D.  
State Health Commissioner

**DATE:** September 9, 2009

**TO:** Executive Board, Indiana State Department of Health

**FROM:** James F. Howell, DVM, MPH, DACVPM   
Assistant Commissioner, Public Health & Preparedness Commission

**SUBJECT:** Final Adoption of LSA Doc #09-40, School Immunizations Rule

The Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) Division of Immunizations requests the Executive Board, at the Board's September 9, 2009 meeting, to take final adoption action on the proposed amendments to the school immunization rule (410 IAC 1-1). The Immunization program, at their January, 2009, meeting with the Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) and the Indiana Association of School Nurses (IASN), agreed to recommend this proposed amendment to you to begin the promulgation process.

This rule change would expand the list of immunizations required for attendance at public schools, as recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and further define the school reporting requirements to ISDH. A Public Hearing was held on September 3, 2009. ISDH received no verbal or written comments at the hearing. One comment was received following the hearing, asking that the rule be clarified to indicate whether every new immunization recommendation by the CDC would automatically be required for schools, or whether ISDH would require only certain immunizations recommended by the CDC. A change was made in the final rule version to clarify that schools would be required to administer only those immunizations that the CDC and ISDH, both, recommended.

Immunization recommendations are updated regularly by the CDC based on currently available vaccine, new scientific data in support of vaccine use, and the epidemiology of vaccine preventable disease activity. The current immunization rule was written in 1976, and is outdated based on new evidence and recommendations. Advances in technology have also changed the immunization reporting mechanisms available at the ISDH. School immunization records are entered into the state immunization registry, and reporting to ISDH is done via this registry.

In order to update the legal authority of the ISDH to maintain adequate immunization coverage in our public schools, and the ability of ISDH to track immunization rates at those schools, the ISDH proposes final adoption of this school immunization rule.

**Attachment:** Proposed Final Rule